

APPENDIX 1 -- PENDING CLAIMS

1. A spatial sound conference system comprising:
 - a conference station comprising:
 - right and left spatially disposed microphones connected to a communications channel for receiving right and left audio signals, wherein the differences between the right and left audio signals represent a head-related transfer function; and
 - a remote station comprising:
 - right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers connected to the communications channel.
2. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a compression unit connected to the right and left spatially disposed microphones for compressing the right and left audio signals; and
 - a decompression unit connected to the right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers for decompressing the compressed right and left audio signals.
3. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a microphone positioned in the remote station and connected to the communications channel for receiving an audio signal; and
 - a loudspeaker positioned in the conference station and connected through the communications channel to the microphone.
4. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 3, further comprising:
 - a compression unit connected to the microphone positioned in the remote station for compressing the audio signal; and
 - a decompression unit connected to the loudspeaker positioned in the conference station for decompressing the compressed audio signal.
5. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 1, wherein the right and left spatially disposed microphones are positioned on a dummy head.
6. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - a microphone positioned in the remote station and connected to the communications channel for receiving an audio signal; and
 - a loudspeaker positioned proximal to the dummy head and connected through the communications channel to the microphone.
7. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - a microphone positioned in the remote station and connected to the communications channel for receiving an audio signal; and
 - right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers positioned in the conference station and connected through the communications channel to the microphone.
8. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a head-tracking sensor in the remote station connected to the communications channel;
and

a position simulator attached to the dummy head and connected through the communications channel to the sensor.

9. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a video camera positioned in the conference station and connected to the communications channel for receiving a video image; and
a display positioned in the remote station and connected through the communications channel to the video camera.

10. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 9, wherein the video camera is positioned near the location of eyes on a dummy head.

11. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 9, wherein the display is a head-mounted display.

12. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 1, wherein the right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers are a headset.

13. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference comprising the steps of:
converting audio information into right and left audio signals at a conference station, wherein the conversion imparts a differential characteristic to the right and left audio signals, and the differential characteristic is represented by a head-related transfer function, and the right and left audio signals comprise spatialized audio;
transmitting audio information representative of said spatialized audio from the conference station across a communications channel to a remote station; and
playing the spatialized audio in the remote station.

14. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
compressing the right and left audio signals after the step of converting; and
decompressing the compressed right and left audio signals after the step of transmitting.

15. A spatial sound conference system comprising:
a transmitting station comprising:
a microphone connected to a communications system for receiving an audio signal;
a head-related transfer function unit connected to the communications system for imparting a head-related transfer function to the audio signal to produce a spatialized audio signal; and
a receiving station comprising:
right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers connected to the communication system for receiving the spatialized audio signal.

16. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 15, further comprising:

a compression unit connected to the microphone for compressing the audio signal; and
a decompression unit connected to the head-related transfer function unit for
decompressing the compressed audio signal.

17. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 15, further comprising:
a compression unit connected to the head-related transfer function unit for compressing
the spatialized audio signal; and
a decompression unit connected to the right and left spatially disposed loudspeakers for
decompressing the compressed spatialized audio signal.
18. A spatial sound conference system according to claim 15, wherein the head-related
transfer function unit is contained in a spatial sound conference bridge.
19. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference comprising the steps of:
receiving an audio signal at a transmitting station;
transmitting the audio signal from the transmitting station to a spatial sound conference
bridge;
imparting a head-related transfer function to the audio signal to create a spatialized audio
signal;
sending the spatialized audio signal from the spatial sound conference bridge to a
receiving station; and
playing the spatialized audio signal on spatially disposed loudspeakers at the receiving
station.
20. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference according to claim 19, further
comprising the steps of:
compressing the audio signal after the step of receiving; and
decompressing the compressed audio signal after the step of transmitting.
21. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference according to claim 19, further
comprising the steps of:
compressing the spatialized audio signal after the step of imparting; and
decompressing the compressed spatialized audio signal after the step of sending.
22. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference comprising the steps of:
receiving an audio signal at a transmitting station;
transmitting the audio signal from the transmitting station to a receiving station;
imparting a head-related transfer function to the audio signal to create spatialized audio
signal;
playing the spatialized audio signal on spatially disposed loudspeakers in the receiving
station.
23. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference according to claim 22, further
comprising the steps of:
compressing the audio signal after the step of receiving; and
decompressing the compressed audio signal after the step of transmitting.

24. A spatial sound conference bridge comprising:
at least two input ports for receiving at least two audio signals and at least two audio signal output ports; and
a head-related transfer function unit connected to at least one of said input ports for imparting a head-related transfer function to a corresponding audio signal to produce at least one spatialized audio signal; wherein
a first output port is connected to the head-related transfer function unit for transmitting the spatialized audio signal.
25. A spatial sound conference bridge according to claim 24, further comprising:
a decompression unit connected to at least one input port for decompressing at least one audio signal.
26. A spatial sound conference bridge according to claim 24, further comprising:
a compression unit connected to at least one output port for compressing at least one spatialized audio signal.
27. A method for conducting a spatial sound conference comprising the steps of:
receiving at least two monaural audio signals;
generating at least two sets of spatialized audio signals from the at least two monaural audio signals using at least two head-related transfer functions;
compiling at least one composite signal from the at least two sets of spatialized audio signals;
transmitting at least one composite signal to a location; and
playing at least one composite signal at the location.